



## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

**To:** Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Mass

**From:** Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

**Subject:** Alternate Plan for Stratton School Circulation

**Date:** 9 August 2010

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Discussions with abutters at the public meeting at the Stratton School on 26 July 2010 indicated an alternate plan should be considered. The alternate plan is described in the attached report and will address the most serious safety concerns. The alternate plan was reviewed by the TAC on 8/6/10 and voted unanimously.

### **Recommendation 1**

- a. Post Wheeler Lane "Do Not Enter" at Dickson.
- b. Post "Do Not Enter—7:30 to 9:00 AM Mon -Fri" at all entries to Mountain from Dickson.
- c. Move "no parking" on Wheeler to the east side of the street.
- d. Complete the asphalt sidewalk on the west side of Wheeler up to the large tree if possible.
- e. Principal to communicate these changes to the parents via email and letters.
- f. Enforcement to be provided at minimum for the first day of school and randomly for the following two weeks.

### **Recommendation 2**

Post 15 min parking on Mountain adjacent to the school parking lot.

### **Recommendation 3**

Post 15 min parking on school side of Pheasant at the nursery School.

It is very desirable that this be accomplished before the start of school on 9/1/10. We hope that this can be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Maxtutis and Ed Starr – TAC Co-Chairs

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee Members:**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Steve Kurland, Officer Corey Rateau, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, Richard Turcotte, and Laura Wiener

**Web site; [www.arlingtonma.gov/tac](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/tac)**

## **Stratton Circulation – Alternate Approach**

9 August 2010

### **Public Meeting**

A public meeting was held at Stratton School on the evening of July 26, 2010 to review the suggested plans for improving safety and parking around the Stratton School. The meeting was hosted by the Principal, Alan Brown, and conducted by Selectman Annie LaCourt and TAC members Jeff Maxtutis and Ed Starr. Attendance was approximately 35 people, about 1/3 of which lived on Mountain Avenue, 1/3 on Pheasant Avenue or one of the side streets, and 1/3 from Hancock Street. Of the attendees, four had children at the Stratton and a few were from Dickson Avenue.

The large majority of the comments made were against the recommended changes to Mountain and Pheasant. Comments included no two-side parking on the narrow streets particularly with snow, difficulty of returning home in a snow storm if Pheasant direction changed, parking enforcement and lack thereof, difficulty with nursery school drop offs on Pheasant blocking driveways, and the inconveniences caused by a one-way street. Good suggestions were made about changes to Wheeler and other issues. At the end of the meeting, it was decided to consider other ways to solve the safety problems with less disruption to the neighbors.

### **Issues (described in first report of 7/12/10)**

- a) Relieve congestion and improve safety at the intersection of Mountain and Wheeler during school drop-offs.**
- b) Increase safety for students walking on the narrow streets with two way traffic without sidewalks (Wheeler and the east end of Mountain).**

### **Recommendations 1**

- a. Post Wheeler Lane “Do Not Enter” at Dickson.
- b. Post “Do Not Enter—7:30 to 9:00 AM Mon -Fri” at all entries to Mountain from Dickson.
- c. Move “no parking” on Wheeler to the east side of the street.
- d. Complete the asphalt sidewalk on the west side of Wheeler up to the large tree if possible.
- e. Principal to communicate these changes to the parents via email and letters.
- f. Enforcement to be provided at minimum for the first day of school and randomly for the next two weeks.

These changes will block school drop-off traffic in the morning from traveling west on Mountain since there is no entry to Wheeler and to Mountain from Dickson. The traffic on Wheeler will be one-way going out, and the large majority of traffic on Mountain in the morning will be traveling east and exiting on Wheeler.

- c) Provide kindergarten parents with a place to park when taking their children to school and picking them up.**

#### **Recommendation 2**

- g. Post 15 min parking on Mountain adjacent to the school parking lot.

- d) Provide a drop off area for the nursery school (learned about issue during public meeting).**

#### **Recommendation 3**

- h. Post 15 min parking on school side of Pheasant at the nursery School.

The following issues are NOT addressed by the alternative recommendations:

- e) Increase safety on Pheasant by having drop off on the passenger side of the vehicle. The parents are responsible for ensuring the safety of their children.
- f) Provide parking for school professional staff adjacent to the school and out of the neighborhood. To be considered at a later time.
- g) Provide more parking for residents. Residents did not express the need for more parking.

#### **Expected Impacts**

The morning traffic on Dickson between Wheeler and Overlook is expected to increase moderately. Also, traffic on Mountain heading east from Overlook to Wheeler at school drop-off time is expected to increase, although some of this will be shared with Pheasant. Baseline data has been taken on Wednesday 8/4 for future comparisons.





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Proposed Traffic Flow and Signs for Stratton School





Proposed Parking Changes for Stratton School